

**TOWN OF ABINGDON  
COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2007 – 9:00 A.M.  
VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS SMALL BUSINESS INCUBATOR**

A work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Saturday, November 17, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Virginia Highlands Small Business Incubator.

**A. ROLL CALL**

Members of Council Present:

Mayor Lois H. Humphreys  
Mr. Robert M. Howard, Vice Mayor  
Dr. French H. Moore, Jr.  
Mrs. Cathy Lowe  
Mr. Edward B. Morgan

Administrative Staff:

Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager  
Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk  
Deborah Icenhour, Assistant Town Attorney

Visitors:

Rick Humphreys, Tom Peterson, Gary Kimbrell, Susan Howard,  
Lucy Kossler, David King

**B. UPDATE ON STATUS OF VIRGINIA MAIN STREET PROGRAM**

Gary Kimbrell and Susan Howard with Virginia Main Street Program addressed the Council members and updated them on the status of obtaining a 501(C)(3) designation for Virginia Main Street.

**C. UPDATE OF DUNN'S MEADOW PROPERTY**

Rick Humphreys of the Dunn's Meadow Steering Committee addressed the Council members regarding several issues and they included application for a grant available for an archaeological survey, National Battlefield Program, recommendations regarding an official name for the property, conversion of existing garage, relocation of beavers away from the pond on the back of the property and an informational kiosk.

**D. CONSIDERATION OF FARMER'S MARKET RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Tom Peterson, Lucy Kossler, and David King appeared before the Council members to address issues that have arisen recently with the Farmer's Market and the adoption of Rules and Regulations

for the Market. After discussion, the Council members asked that Town staff and representatives of the Market get together to finalize the Rules and Regulations and bring those back to Council for consideration at a future meeting.

#### **E. CONSIDERATION OF COUNCIL RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Greg Kelly, Town Manager, presented a draft of proposed rules and regulations that the Council consider adopting with regard to Rules of Order, speaking time limits, agenda deadlines, non-departmental requests, and regulation of closed session. Council members agreed that the 5:00 Monday, preceding a Council meeting, for submission of agenda items is acceptable. They further asked that Mr. Kelly and Ms. Icenhour revise the proposed rules per discussion and bring them back to the Council for further consideration.

#### **F. REPORTS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER**

- Newly created “Special Events Form” – Mr. Kelly presented the Council members with a copy of the Special Events Form which will now be used for all Town events.
- Relocation of the Post Office building – Mr. Kelly informed the Council that Congressman Boucher’s office had approached him about support from the Council for relocation of the Post Office from its current downtown location.
- \$25,000 owed to the Town by Abingdon Redevelopment and Housing Authority – Mr. Kelly informed the Council members that he requested reimbursement from the Housing Authority for \$25,000.
- Consideration of official name for the property currently known as Dunn’s Meadow – Mr. Kelly informed the Council that the Steering Committee had suggested the name of “The Mustering Grounds” for the property.

**On motion of Dr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Howard, the official name of the “The Mustering Grounds” was proposed for adoption by the Council. Discussion ensued and Dr. Moore rescinded his motion and Mr. Howard rescinded his second to the motion. The motion died.**

**After further discussion, on motion of Dr. Moore, seconded by Mrs. Lowe, the property formerly known as Dunn’s Meadow will be now be officially named “The Mustering Grounds at Craig’s Meadow”.**

**The roll call vote was:**

<b>Mrs. Lowe</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Morgan</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Dr. Moore</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Howard</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Humphreys</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**The motion carried.**

- Consideration of official name of Farmer’s Market property – Mr. Kelly informed the Council that Garrett Jackson, Director of Planning, had submitted for consideration the name for the Farmer’s Market as “Abingdon Market Pavilion”.

**On motion of Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mrs. Lowe, the Farmer’s Market property will now be officially named “Abingdon Market Pavilion”.**

**The roll call vote was:**

<b>Mrs. Lowe</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Morgan</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Dr. Moore</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Howard</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Humphreys</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**The motion carried.**

#### **G. Joint Town/County Sports Complex**

Mr. Kelly informed the Council that two Council members previously appointed cannot both serve and one council member would need to be replaced with a Town citizen.

**On motion of Dr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Morgan, Dan Mathews, Bob Howard, and Eddie Icenhour were appointed to serve as representatives for the Town on the Joint Town/County Sports Complex Committee.**

**The roll call vote was:**

<b>Mrs. Lowe</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Morgan</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Dr. Moore</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Howard</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Humphreys</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**The motion carried.**

#### **H. Exit 14 Declaratory Judgment Status**

**On motion of Dr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Morgan, and pursuant to Sec. 2.2-3711(A)(7) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, the Council went into closed session to consult with legal counsel regarding possible litigation.**

**The roll call vote was:**

Mrs. Lowe	Aye
Mr. Morgan	Aye
Dr. Moore	Aye
Mr. Howard	Aye
Mayor Humphreys	Aye

The motion carried.

On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mrs. Lowe, the Council reconvened in regular session.

The roll call vote was:

Mrs. Lowe	Aye
Mr. Morgan	Aye
Dr. Moore	Aye
Mr. Howard	Aye
Mayor Humphreys	Aye

The motion carried.

The following certification was adopted:

*WHEREAS, the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia has convened in a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and*

*WHEREAS, Sec. 2.2-3712(D) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, requires a certification by the Town Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law; and*

*NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from an open meeting requirement by Virginia law were discussed in closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Town Council.*

The certification was as follows:

Mrs. Lowe	I so certify
Mr. Morgan	I so certify
Dr. Moore	I so certify
Mr. Howard	I so certify
Mayor Humphreys	I so certify

#### **I. Bundy House on Valley Street (demolition)**

Bob Howard reported on the status of the Bundy House which is owned by Highlands Union Bank. He indicated the house is in such poor condition that it might have to be considered for demolition.

**J. Consideration of Moving Tourism Department to Artisan Center**

Dr. Moore asked the Council members to consider moving the Town's Tourism Office to the new Artisan Center and that the decision deadline was fast approaching.

**K. Town's Tourism Department**

Mr. Morgan questioned the reports from the Tourism Department and noted a decline in visitors to Abingdon. He requested that the Tourism Director develop a defined strategy for the Visitors Center. Discussion ensued among the Council members but no action was taken.

Dr. Moore left the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

The Council members briefly discussed the following items on the agenda but no action was taken:

- M – Update on Spot Blight properties in Town
- N – Available properties
- O – Highlands Jazz Festival
- P – Person to consider for economic development coordinator and IDA by-laws

With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

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Lois H. Humphreys, Mayor

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Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Clerk